frontline demonstrations in consultation with ATMAs, and to give priority for conducting the training programmes as and when requested by ATMAs.

Wastage of agriculture produce

1946. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of agriculture products wasted during the period 2002-2005 due to bad quality of seeds and pesticides, year-wise and product-wise; and

(b) the actions being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Sir, Seed is the basic input in agricultural production system and performance of other inputs is also determined by the quality of seeds, which make a difference in production/ productivity to the extent of about 45%. In India about 80% seeds used are farm saved seeds, which accounts for low seed replacement rate and impacts productivity. However, efforts have been made to enhance agricultural productivity by promoting use of quality seed.

The Quality of Seeds is regulated by the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seed (Control) Order, 1983, which prescribe minimum seed standards and address issues related to production and distribution of seeds. In order to ensure supply of quality pesticides to farmers, the Government of India along with State Government regulates the import, manufacture, production and sale of pesticides under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Act has sufficient provisions to regulate the quality of pesticides distributed to the farmers. Punitive actions are taken against the manufacturer/dealer of spurious and misbranded pesticides.

Impact of agricultural import on Indian agriculture

1947. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study in Uttaranchal

to assess the impact of liberalized import of agriculture products on Indian agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The government has not conducted any study in Uttaranchal to assess the impact of liberalized import of agricultural products on Indian agriculture.

Subsequent to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports in 2001, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items. Protection to the domestic producers including farmers is provided by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariff within bound levels and safeguard action under specified circumstances. As a sequel to these measures, import duties on a number of items including edible oils (both crude and refined), tea, coffee, copra and coconut, wheat, rice, maize, pulses, spices, arecanut, apple, cut flowers and vanaspati have been increased in the last 5 years. Further, the Government also implements a number of development programmes to increase the competitiveness of the Indian farmer. These include introduction of improved farming technology, improved availability of inputs including water, credit and fertilizer and price support through the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

Agriculture Produce Market Committees

1948. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many States have passed laws negating monopoly of Agriculture Produce Market Committees;

(b) how many States are likely to pass laws negating Agriculture Produce Market Committees and by when; and

(c) the impact of negating the Agriculture Produce Market Committees on the farmers?